

# CUMULATIVE LIFETIME VIOLENCE SEVERITY SCALE: DEVELOPMENT AND INITIAL TESTING AMONG MEN

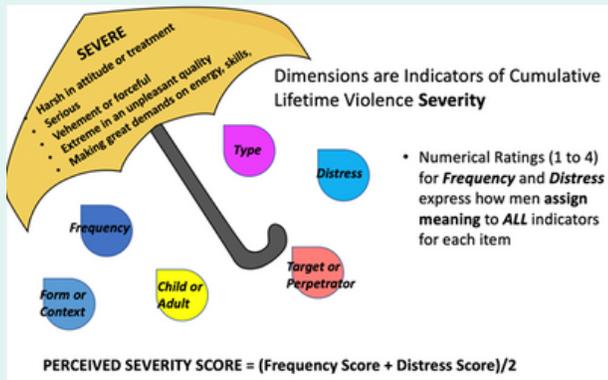
KELLY SCOTT-STOREY, SUE O'DONNELL, JUDITH WUEST, JUDITH MACINTOSH & MARILYN MERRITT-GRAY



BMC Public Health, 20, Article 418. (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-020-08551-6>

## BACKGROUND

- Adverse health effects cannot be attributed to individual experiences of violence as target or perpetrator because consequences of multiple experiences accumulate over a lifetime.
- No measure of cumulative lifetime violence (CLV) severity for health research was found.
- We conceptualized CLV severity dimensions as TYPE (physical, psychological, sexual); TIMING (adult, child); FOCUS (target, perpetrator); CONTEXT (e.g., family, partner, work, school, community); FREQUENCY; and DISTRESS.



## GOAL

To develop the first comprehensive measure of CLV severity in men for use in health research.

## SAMPLE

A community sample of 685 participants who identified as men, ages 19-65 from eastern Canada (New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia).

## METHOD

64-items were developed, pretested and refined to reflect all dimensions based on feedback from experts including men. The scale was incorporated into a larger online survey focusing on men's physical and mental health. Principal Components Analysis was used to illuminate the underlying dimensionality of items.

## KEY FINDINGS

- Principal Component Analysis resulted in a 44-item 11 component solution accounting for 64% of the variance with good model fit, a Cronbach's alpha of .92 and significant concurrent validity with measures of mental health problems commonly experienced by people with CLV histories.
- All dimensions of our conceptualization were reflected in the subscales (components) except Adult Sexual Violence as Target.
- Patterns of CLVS reflected in the subscales were: C1-Lifetime Perpetrator Physical & Sexual Violence (not partner or work), C2-Childhood Target Physical & Psychological Peer Violence; C3-Lifetime Perpetrator Sexual Violence; C4-Adult Target Psychological Violence; C5-Childhood Target Sexual Violence; C6-Adult Target & Perpetrator Violence in Civil Unrest or Work-related; C7-Lifetime Target Physical & Psychological Partner Violence; C8-Lifetime Target Physical Violence Family; C9-Lifetime Perpetrator Stalking & Messaging; C10-Adult Perpetrator Psychological Workplace Violence; C11-Lifetime Perpetrator Physical Partner Violence.